

Message

From: Poy, Thomas [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6D30804725BE4468B610F9863E2C938E-TPOY02]
Sent: 10/24/2014 7:00:09 PM
To: Hyde, Tinka [hyde.tinka@epa.gov]; Henry, Timothy [henry.timothy@epa.gov]
CC: Bair, Rita [bair.rita@epa.gov]; Damato, Nicholas [damato.nicholas@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Petition re drinking water

Tinka/Tim: As would be expected on a letter that was sent to Gina and Susan, Ken Kopocis and Peter Grevatt are aware/interested in the petition.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Lopez-Carbo, Maria
Subject: RE: Petition re drinking water

Hi Maria: Yes, I'm working on the petition for use of 1431 in Wisconsin. The letter has been controlled and the response is that we are reviewing the petition and will respond to the submitter after we've completed our review. We have not made any other decisions or on the merits of the petition yet.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Lopez-Carbo, Maria
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: FW: Petition re drinking water

Tom- is your group working on this?
I was sharing because Ken Kopocis asked if we could hear about the response before it goes out to the public.
If you are not part of this do you know who is in Region 5? Thanks!

From: Grevatt, Peter
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 9:58 PM
To: Kopocis, Ken
Cc: Hyde, Tinka; Lopez-Carbo, Maria; Bergman, Ronald
Subject: Re: Petition re drinking water

Thanks Ken. We got this today as well. My understanding is that the petition is in R5, but we'll confirm. In either case we'll coordinate with the Region and will make sure you have a chance to review before the response goes forward. Thx.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2014, at 5:20 PM, "Kopocis, Ken" <Kopocis.Ken@epa.gov> wrote:

Peter, see the story pasted in below.

I don't know whether the petition is in R5 or here at HQ. Please find out.

Regardless, I want to be briefed before any reply goes out from either source. Please advise R5.

Thanks,

Ken Kopocis
Office of Water
U.S. EPA
(202) 564-5700

> News Headline: Groups ask EPA to investigate pollution causes by
> cattle farms |

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> Outlet Full Name: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Online News Text: Six
> environmental groups on Wednesday asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to exercise
emergency powers under the Safe Drinking Water Act to investigate groundwater contamination in
cattle-intensive Kewaunee County in northeastern Wisconsin.

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> In a petition to the federal agency, the groups say the Department of Natural Resources has failed to
protect drinking water for county residents on two fronts: Through its powers to regulate groundwater
and the agency's oversight of large-scale cattle operations.

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> The environmental groups estimate that the tens of thousands of cattle in the county produce the
manure equivalent of more than 900,000 humans - or more than the City of Milwaukee.

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> As of June, nearly 31% of 149 wells tested this year in the county contained bacteria or nitrates - or
both - that exceeded state and federal public health standards. In Lincoln Township, half the 38 wells
that were tested exceeded the standard, according to the petition.

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> The well testing was conducted by the county land and water conservation department and was
analyzed by the Center for Watershed Science and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens
Point.

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> "Everyone deserves safe, clean and reliable drinking water, but Kewaunee County residents gamble
with their health simply by turning on the faucets in their homes," Elizabeth Wheeler, staff attorney with
Clean Wisconsin, said in a statement. "We're seeking federal action to help create a long-term solution
to what's unfortunately been a long-term problem for thousands of people in the area."

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> The petition has political overtones because it comes two weeks before the Nov. 4 election between
Republican Gov. Scott Walker and Democrat Mary Burke, and environmental groups have complained
about lax regulation under Walker.

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> The DNR was not immediately available for comment.

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> Kewaunee County has emerged as ground zero in a debate over sharp growth in dairying in pockets of Wisconsin and whether farmers can adequately protect the land and water from the growing tide of manure.

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> Nutrient-rich manure has long served as a key source of fertilizer for farmland. But in documents filed with the EPA, the environmental groups contend the volume of animal waste generated by farms in Kewaunee County exceed the land's carrying capacity.

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> Citing DNR figures, the groups said manure from dairy cows, calves, heifers and beef cattle produce 12.4 million pounds of nitrogen annually. But the groups said the 130,228 acres of harvestable acres was able to accommodate about 11.3 million pounds of nitrogen - or a surplus of some 1.2 million pounds.

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> There are about 200 dairy farms in the county, including 15 large-scale farms known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs. Farms qualifying as CAFOs have at least 700 milking and dry cows and come under DNR oversight, including a requirement that operators file detailed plans to spread manure.

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> The number of cattle has grown in the county from 59,800 to 80,000 since 1983, the groups said. Kewaunee County is one of four counties in the state that have experienced an increase in dairy cows between 1983 and 2012.

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> The growth of the dairying industry is taking place on land that has trouble sustaining so much manure, the groups said. The landscape of Kewaunee County consists of soil overlaying fractured carbonate bedrock, which makes it more difficult to prevent manure and water from soaking into the soil and slipping through cracks in the bedrock to reach groundwater.

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> The groups asking help from the EPA are: Clean Wisconsin, Environmental Integrity Project, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Midwest Environmental Defense Center, Kewaunee CARES and the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin.

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